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SHAPE MEMORY LOCKING MECHANISM FOR INTRAVASCULAR STENT
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- (57) Claim

1. A locking mechanism for an intraluminal stent which is implanted in a body lumen, comprising:

an intraluminal stent formed from a substantially flat sheet and having a first edge and a second edge;

a longitudinal slot formed in said first edge;  
a plurality of teeth positioned along a third edge and a fourth edge of said stent for interlocking engagement with said longitudinal slot, said plurality of teeth made from a shape memory-retaining material or a superelastic material; and

means for locking said plurality of teeth into engagement with said longitudinal slot so that said stent can be rolled into a cylindrical configuration and when expanded to an enlarged diameter said plurality of teeth interlock with said longitudinal slot.

15. A locking mechanism for an intraluminal stent which is implanted in a body lumen, comprising

an intraluminal stent formed from a plurality of flat sheets interconnected together and each having a first edge and a second edge;